l'espion mini

DIGITAL dream

User's Manual

THE DIGITAL CAMERA COMPANY

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Important

Pictures you may acquire from any of the bundled software and/or Pictures, or documents you scan may be protected under copyright law. The unauthorized use of such materials could be a violation of the rights of the copyright holder.

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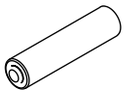
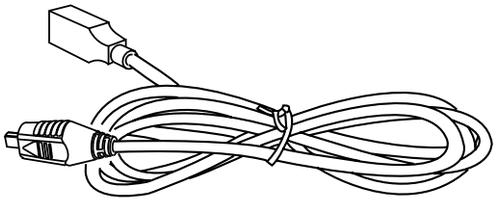
Package Contents

l'espion mini
digital camera

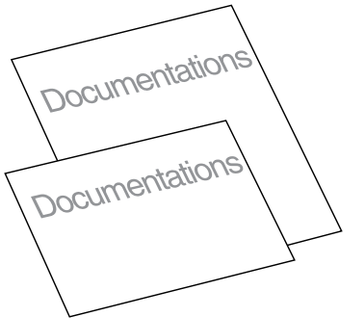


AAA Battery
(Alkaline recommended)

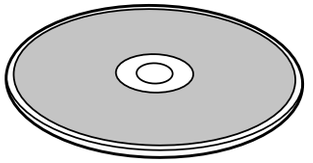
Key chain



Special USB cable



l'espion mini Quick Reference
and other inserts

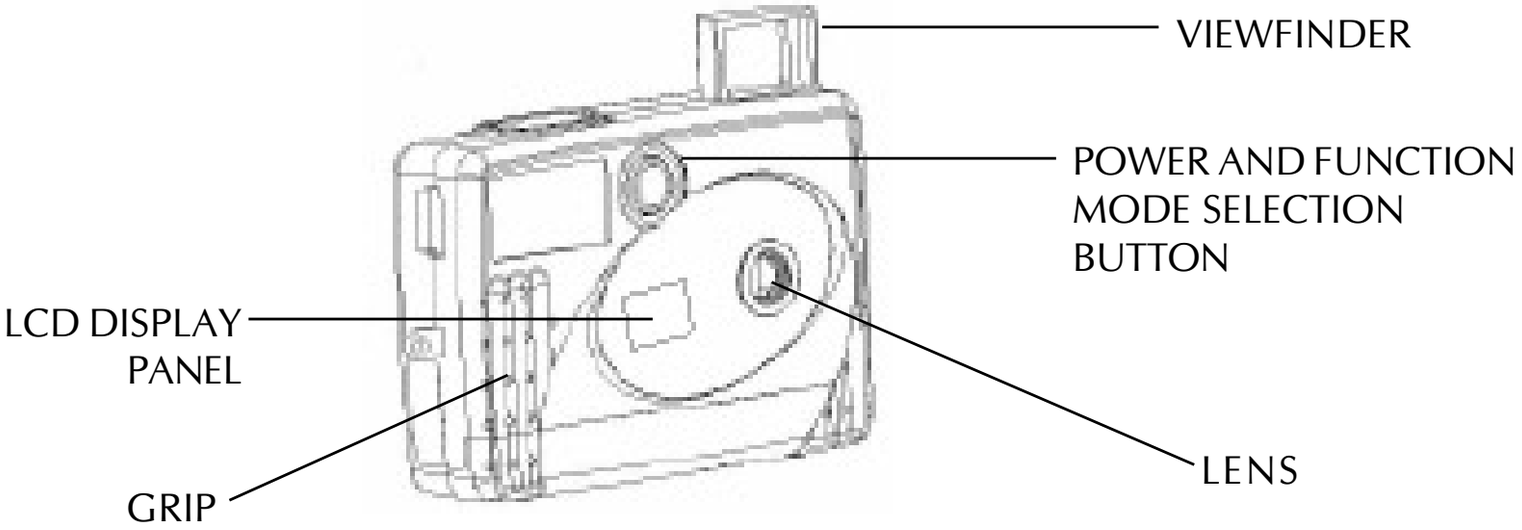


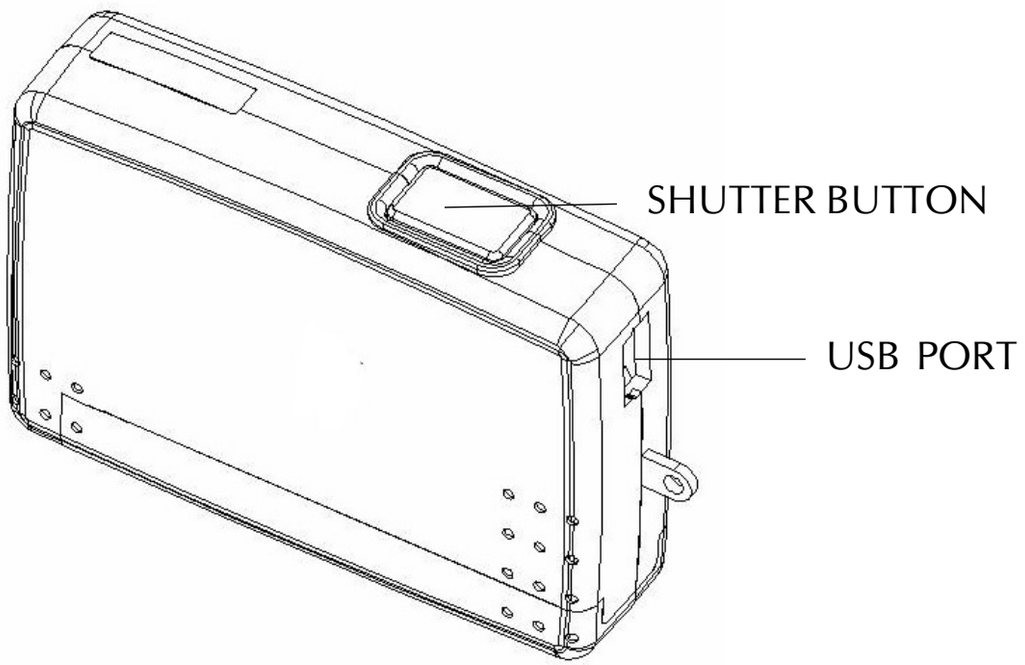
CD-ROM
(Contains digital camera software and user's manuals)

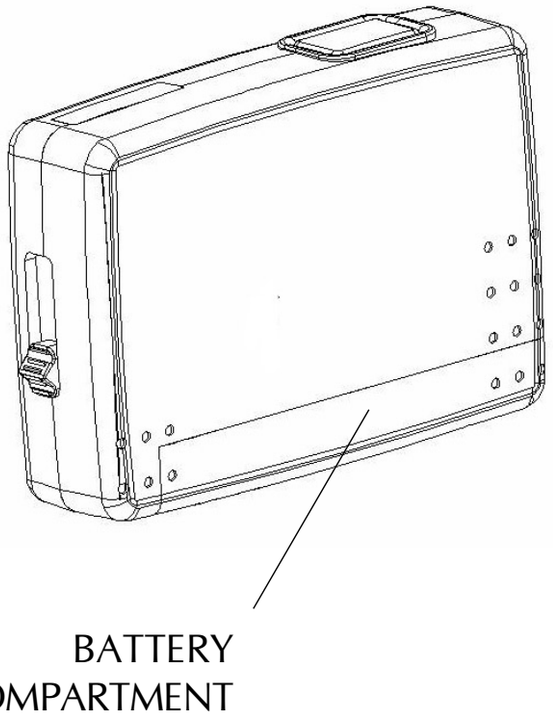
Features

- **Compact and lightweight**
  Size: 55 x 38 x 15mm Weight**:** approx. 40g (without battery)
- **Easy to operate**
  Fixed focus with only two-button (function mode and shutter) operation
- **Three choices of picture taking modes**
  Continuous shooting mode (20 or 80 shots maximum)
  Self-timer mode (10 seconds delay)
  CIF (20 shots) QCIF (80 shots) image recording mode (352 x 288 & 176 x 144 pixels respectively)
- **AVI Image Conversion**
  Easily transfer “Still images” into “Motion pictures” using the AVI (Audio Video Interlead) format application.
- **Instant image frames erasure**
  All images can be cleared instantly to start a new picture taking session.
- **Low power consumption with auto energy-save mode**
  Camera automatically enters into “Sleep” (energy-saving) mode when it remains inactive for 30 seconds.
- **Supports USB interface**
  With USB, download of images to your PC is accomplished at higher speed.
- **Software package bundle**
  Ulead Photo Express (Digital Still camera software)
  Digital Dream Video Mail (PC/Web camera software)
  Adobe Acrobat Reader (Software for reading the user's manual)

Camera Components







Getting Ready

A. Loading the Battery

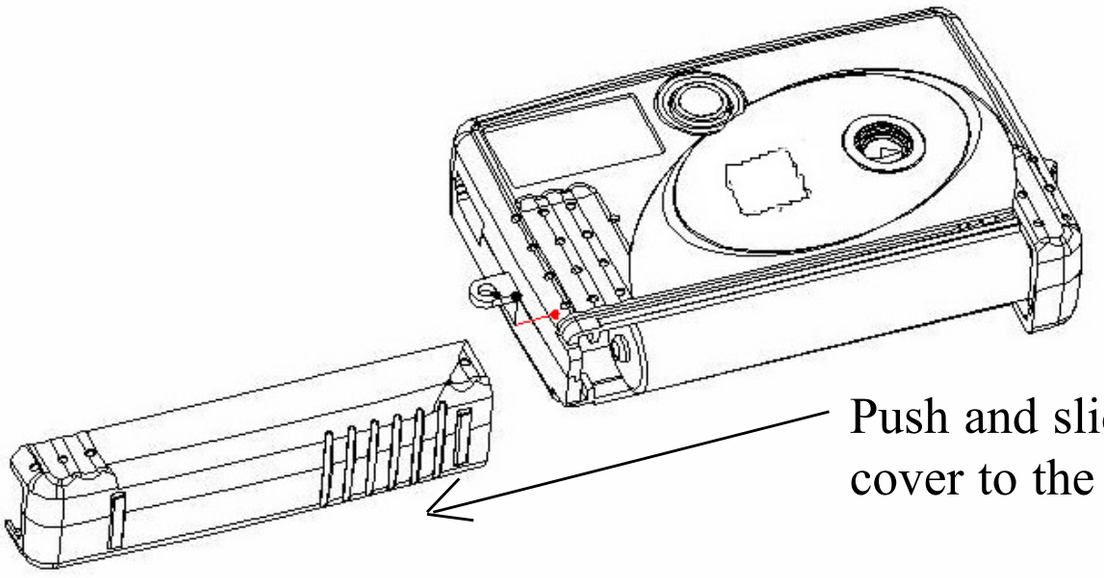
(1 AAA size battery)

1 Open the battery compartment cover, by slightly pushing the bottom of the battery coverto the left, and then smoothly pushing the cover away from the rail.

2 Insert a battery into its chamber making sure that the positive (+) and negative (-) ends are properly oriented with the polarity indicated on chamber.

3 Close and slide the battery compartment cover back to its original position.

WARNING: *When the LCD Panel display starts to blink, it indicates that the battery power is low. Stop taking pictures and transfer the images data to your PC within a day before the battery completely loses its power, otherwise, all the images will be erased.*

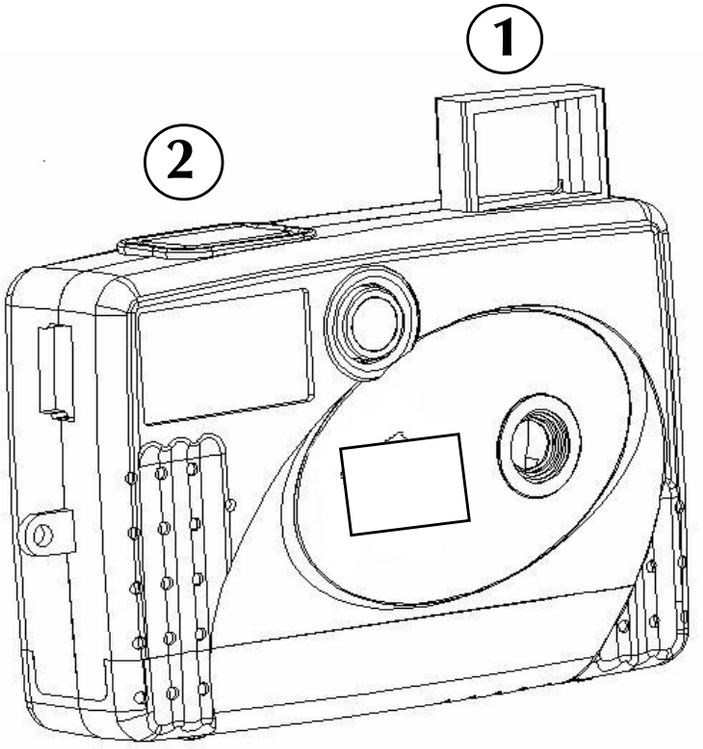


B. Basic Picture Taking Operation

***NOTE**: The camera is designed without a power switch. It uses energy-saving or "Sleep" mode to control its power. If the camera is off, press the Function Mode button to turn the camera back on.*

1 Pop up the **Viewfinder** and hold the camera steady. Look through the viewfinder and set up your picture. Adjust size of your composition by increasing or decreasing distance between camera and subject but not nearer than one meter.

2 Press the **Shutter** button to take a picture of your subject. A short beep sound emits at each click of the shutter to confirm that a shot has been taken and the camera is ready to take the next picture.



***NOTES**: 20 or 80 shots mode is available with erase capability (see next page for details). After each shot, the LCD Panel will show the number of remaining shots available.*

***WARNING**: A warning beep (longer and lower tone compared to normal beep) will emit if exposure is too dark for a normal picture taking. No image is taken when this condition occurs.*

Other Modes of Operation

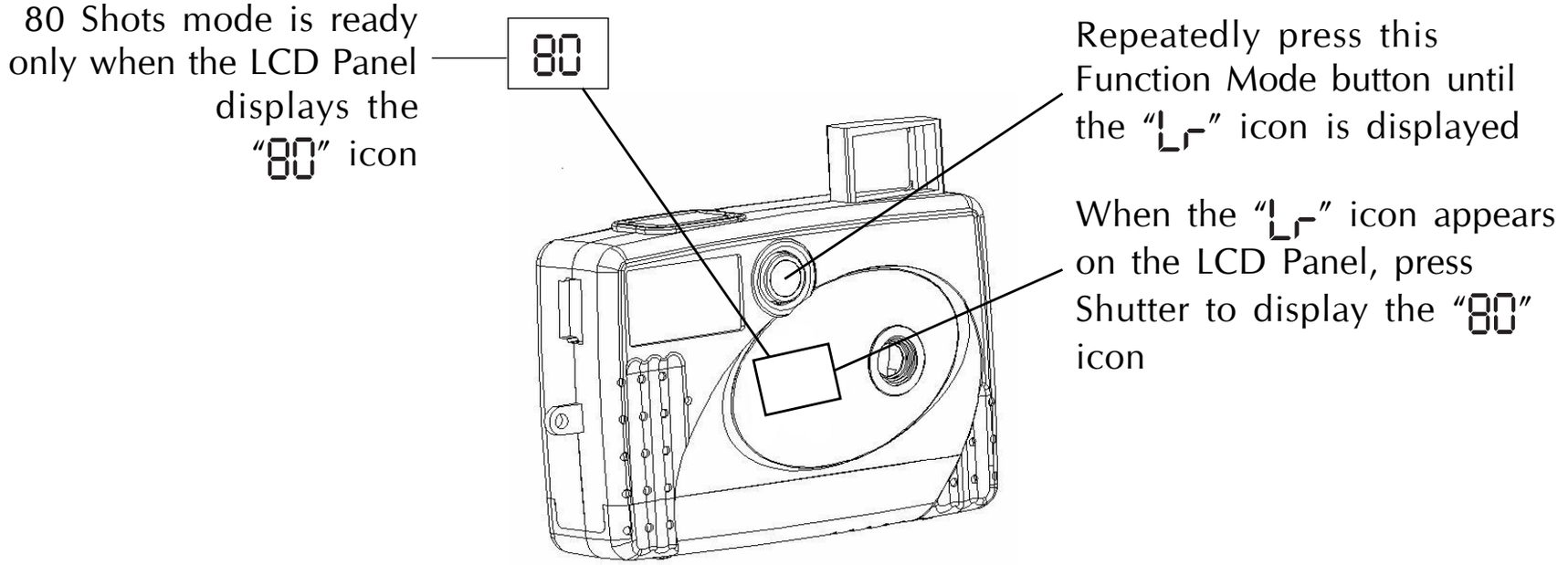
A. 80 Shots Mode

This mode of operation allows you to take 80 shots of lower-resolution images in QCIF (176 x 144) format. To set your camera into 80 Shots mode

1 Repeatedly press the Function Mode button until the "LR" icon is displayed on the LCD Display Panel.

2 Press the Shutter button and the "LR" icon becomes "80" which would indicate that the 80 Shot mode is ready.

NOTE: Switching from 80 pictures mode to 20 pictures modes will not erase any images in the camera. If you attempt to continue shooting at the end of 80th shot, a repetitive beep will emit when you press the Shutter button.



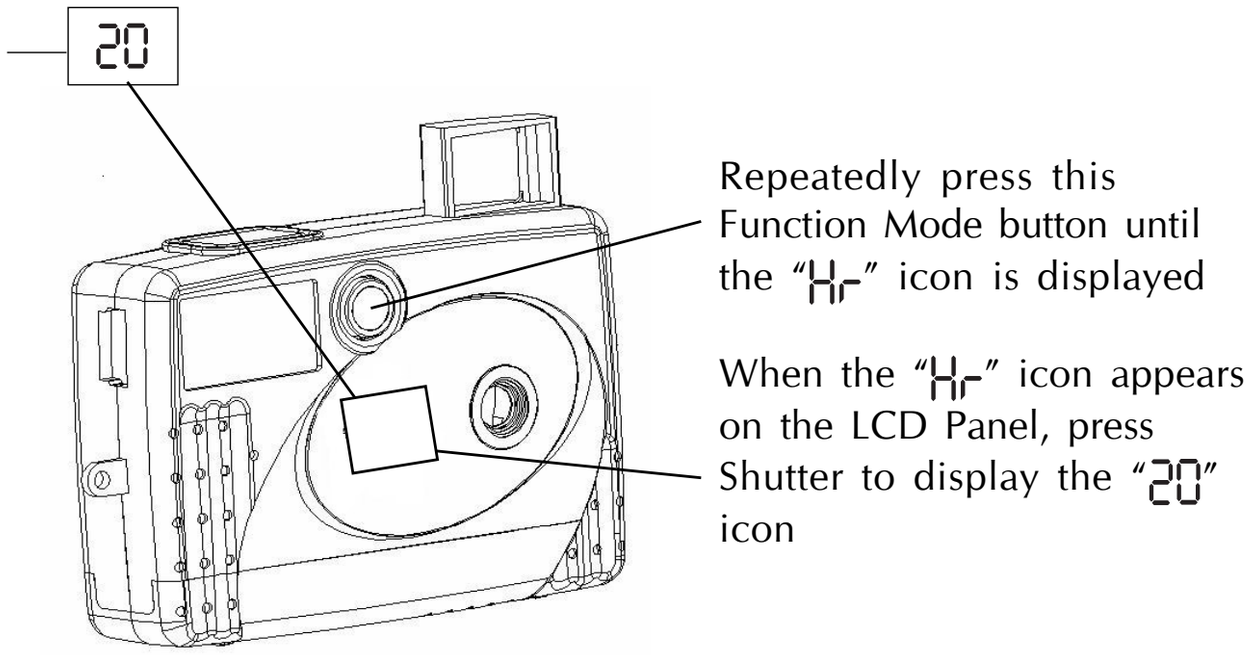
B. 20 Shots Mode

This mode of operation allows you to take 20 shots of images at higher resolution CIF (352 x 288) format. The camera default to this mode. To set your camera back to 20 Shots mode after operating in 80 Shots mode-

1 Repeatedly press the **Function Mode** button until the "Hr" icon is displayed on the LCD Display Panel.

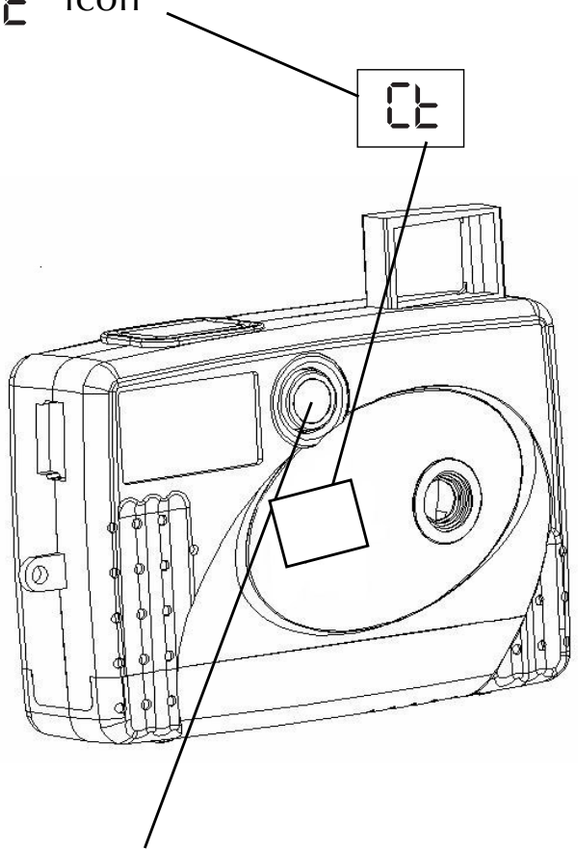
2 Press the **Shutter** button and the "Hr" icon becomes "20" which would indicate that the 20 Shot mode is ready.

***WARNING**: Switching from 20 pictures mode to 80 pictures mode will not erase any images in the camera. If you attempt to continue shooting at the end of 20th shot, a repetitive beep will emit when you press the* Shutter *button.*



C. Continuous Shooting Mode

Continuous Shooting mode is ON when this LCD Panel displays the "CL" icon



Repeatedly press this Function Mode button until the CL mode icon is displayed

This mode of operation allows you to take multiple frames of images when holding down the Shutter button while aiming at your subject. A maximum of 20 or 80 shots can be taken depending on which shooting mode you are in. Continuous shooting under 20 Shots mode takes about 4 seconds to fully consume the 20 frames, while it takes about 16 seconds under 80 Shots mode. If you release the Shutter midway, only part of the available frames will be loaded with images.

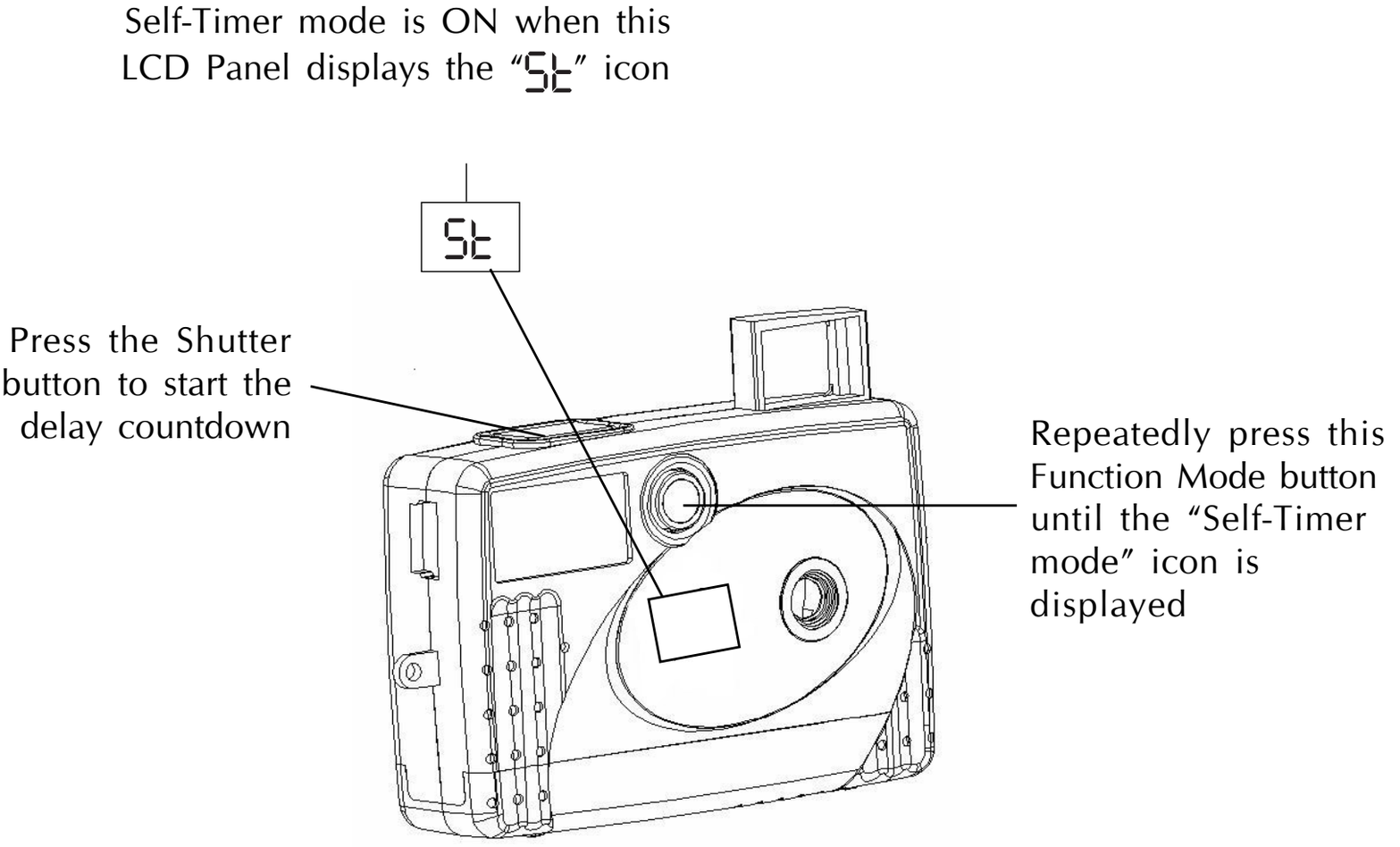
To set camera into Continuous Shooting mode, repeatedly press the Function Mode select button until the "CL" icon is displayed on the LCD Display Panel.

D. Self-Timer Mode

The Self-Timer mode of operation allows a 10 seconds shutter release delay after pressing the Shutter button.

1 Set camera into Self-Timer mode by repeatedly pressing the Function Mode select button until the "St" icon is displayed on the LCD Display Panel.

2 Then press the Shutter to start the 10 second countdown.



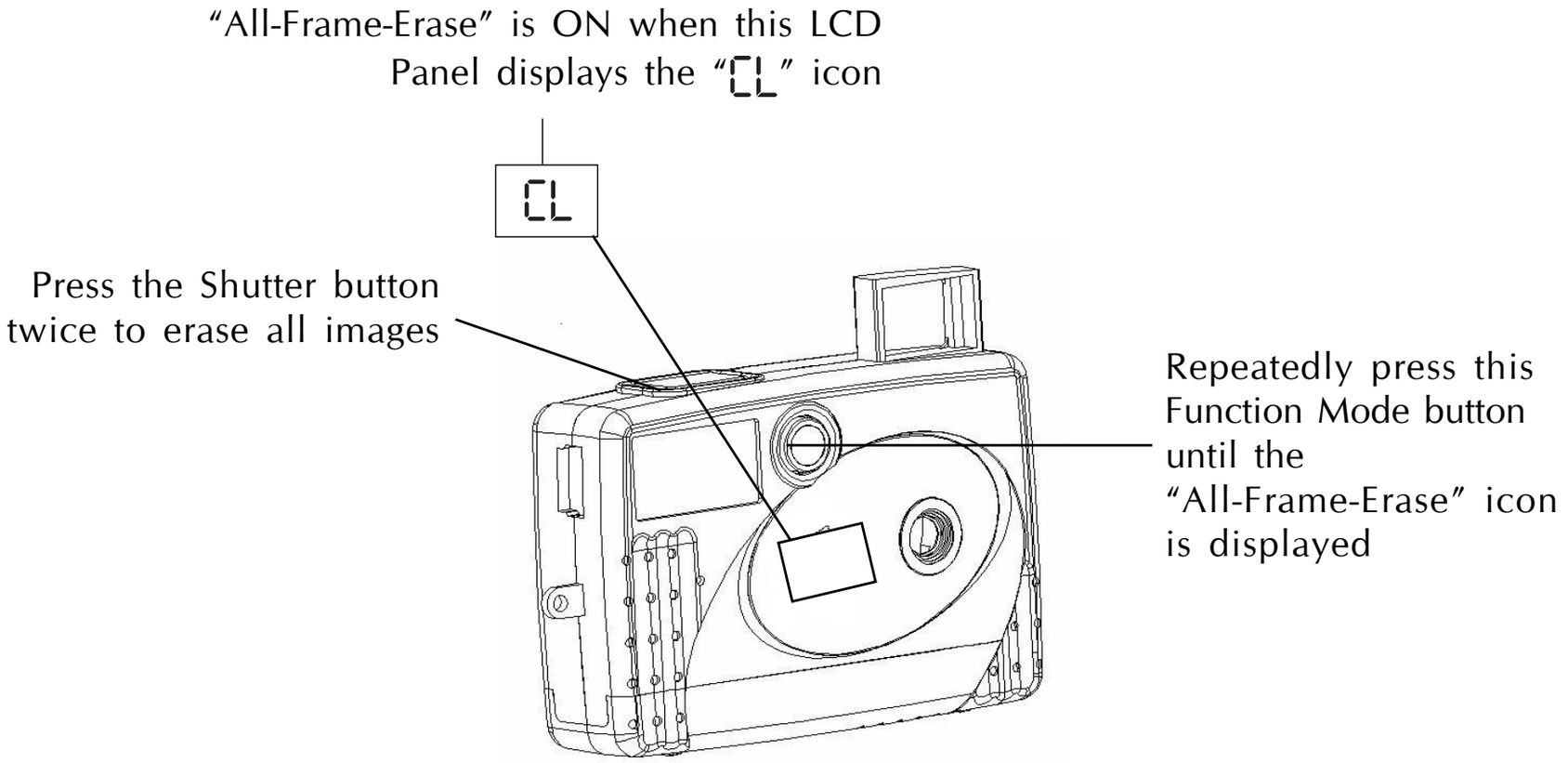
Erasing All Images from Camera

Whenever you wish to discard the images you have already taken, you can erase them from the camera. Take note that this erase feature functions only as "All-Frame Erase." No partial erasure is allowed.

1 Enable the "All-Frame-Erase" feature by repeatedly pressing the Function Mode select button until the "CL" icon is displayed on the LCD Display Panel.

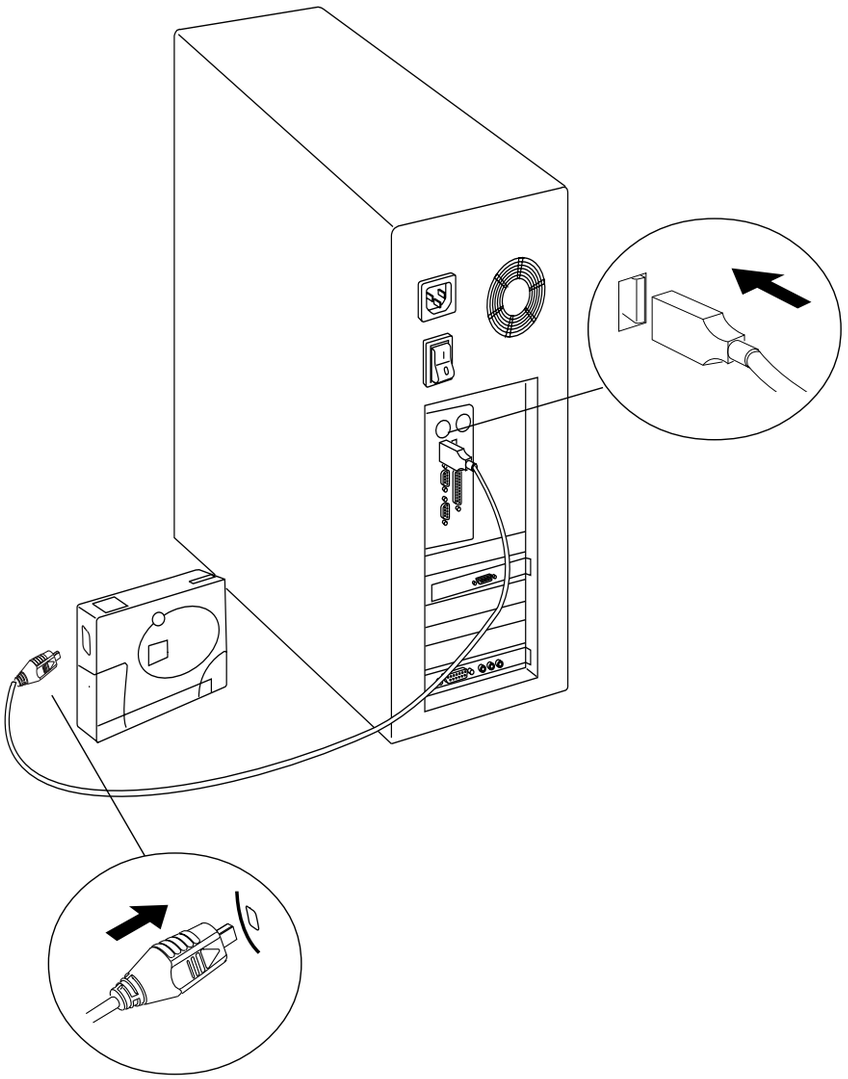
2 Press the Shutter button twice to start erasing all images in the camera.

***NOTE**: If you do not press the Shutter a second time within 5 seconds, the erase function is aborted.*



Connecting the Camera to PC

***NOTE**: It is assumed that you have already installed the bundled software into your computer. If not, install software as instructed in the section on "Utility Software Installation" of this manual.*



To transfer (download) the images data from the camera to your PC, connect the camera to your PC with the supplied USB cable.

1 Insert the smaller terminal of the USB cable into the camera's USB port.

2 Plug the other end of the USB cable into the USB port of your computer.

3 Perform downloads to your computer by referring to the section on *"Downloading images"* later in this manual.

4 Operate the camera as *web camera* by referring to the Digital Dream Video Mail help file within the program.

Utility Software Installation

The Utility CD that accompanies your camera contains the l'espion Mini Digital Camera Driver bundled with valuable image-editing software.

A. Installing Digital Camera Driver

1 Insert the utility CD into the CD-ROM drive.

***NOTE**: If the installer screen does not automatically display, click the Start button, then click Run from Windows Start menu, and execute the file DDmini.exe from the CD.*

2 When the l'espion mini Software Installer screen appears, select the language you wish to use, then select and click **Camera Driver** on the screen. Follow the on-line instructions to complete the driver installation.

***NOTE:** You may be prompted to restart the computer at this point. Do not restart your computer until all the software has been installed.*

Click to start camera driver installation

Click the User Manual button to view the l'espion mini user manual.

3 You may also install all the other software as set on the next page.

B. Installing Other Bundled Software

Click the software components to start the installation

Click the User Manual button to open the file for the manual that you wish to view

Click the Exit button to abort installation or to close the Installer program

1 From the l'espion mini Software Installer screen, click each software in the order that it appears on the screen, follow the on-line instructions to complete the installation of all software components:

Ulead Photo Express
This is your Image-editing software for creating digital photo albums, cards etc.

Digital Dream Video Mail
This is your PC and/or Web Camera software.

2 A desktop shortcut of the program is automatically created after successful installation. Restart your computer when you have finished installing all of the above software.

Do not plug your camera in until you have restarted your computer.

Using the l'espion mini as a Digital Camera

The **l'espion mini Digital Camera** interface will be launched, when you start downloading images from your digital camera to any of your image-editing software.

Zoom

Click **Zoom** to enable/disable image interpolation application for downloaded images.

Acquire

Click the image that you wish to send and process to an image-editing software, and then click the **Acquire** button.

Acquire All

Click the **Acquire All** button to send and process all the thumbnail images on the panel to a selected application.

Download

Click the **Download** button to transfer and/or download another set of images from your Camera. Existing images will be overwritten.

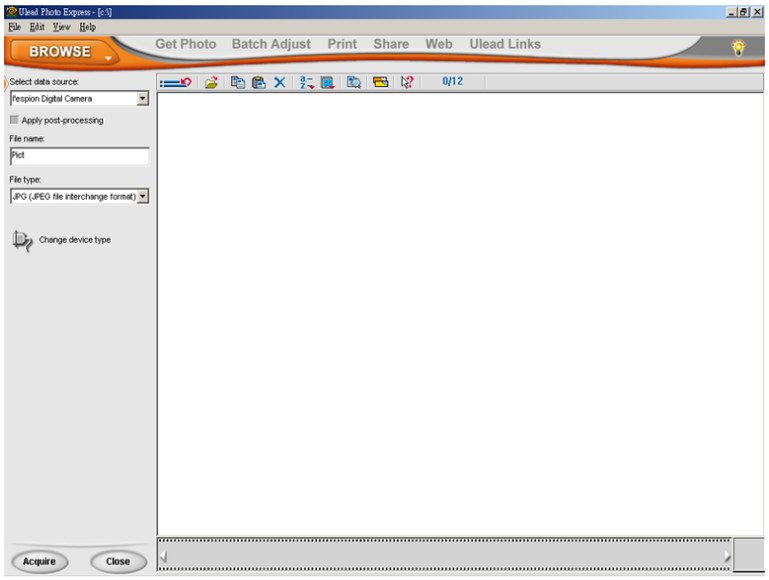
AVI Creator

Click the **AVI Creator** button to transfer and/or download “Still” images from your l'espion mini Camera and convert it into “Moving/ Motion Pictures” through the AVI (Audio Video Interleaved) format application.

Exit

Click the **Exit** button to close/quit l'espion Digital Camera Interface.

Downloading Images to your PC



For more details on how to enhance/ add special effects to your images, or create digital albums; greeting cards etc., please refer to the Help menu of Photo Express.

Using Ulead Photo Express

1. Launch **Photo Express** by doing the following in succession: Start, Programs - Photo Express.

2. Click the **Photo mode** tab from the left side bar of the screen. The Photo mode window will appear.

3. From the Toolbar, click the get button and then the Camera icon -- the Select Data Source dialog box will appear, choose **l'espion mini digital camera** from the list, and then click the **Acquire** button.

4. The l'espion mini Digital Camera interface appears. Please refer to the previous page for a description of this.

5. Click **Exit** when you are ready to return to Photo Express to further enhance the selected image(s).

Frequently asked questions

Q Why does the LCD display flash on my camera?

A The battery on your camera needs replacing.

Q I am using the camera as a webcam and the display has gone strange and I have lost my images.

A The display will change while using the camera as a Webcam this is quite normal. The camera's memory is used as a buffer, therefore any images will be cleared for space.

Q Why are my images lost when I change the battery?

A The images are stored on the internal memory of the camera, this memory is powered by the battery.

For on-line technical support please visit our website: www.digitaldreamco.com